



Hamilton December 2025

FROM THE EDITOR:

Greetings from our final edition for 2025. It has been a very busy year for your committee with the two big events ANZAC and Armistice taking center stage, It was great to see so many people turn up for the ANZAC dawn and civic services and a good turn out for the Armistice day commemorations. This year our newly elected Mayor and RSA member the Honorable Tim Macindoe

gave the key note address on Armistice day. Special thanks to Mayor Tim and the Hamilton City Council event team for organizing the event.



This year our Vice President Lance Langley had the honor of reciting the ODE and laying a wreath ,with his wife Sue, on behalf of the Hamilton RSA at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium on the 2nd October. There was between 4-500 people who attended that evening. The Last Post is played and the ODE recited almost every night since July 1928. The Menin Gate commemorates by name the 54,000 + officers and enlisted men of the British Empire who died in the Ypres Salient and whose graves are unknown.



The Menin Gate



Wreaths laid Oct 2nd 2025



We as a committee have been working hard on our constitution and finally it has been submitted and accepted by RNZRSA. Fantastic and a big thank you to all who had input.

President Bruce and Vice President Lance attended the annual Conference and AGM in Wellington in October. The National president Sir 'Buck' Shelford's term had come to an end and we were very pleased to see Tony Hill from Cambridge elected unopposed as our new National President. Congratulations Tony. There has been some very negative press of late around the RNZRSA and some local RSA organizations. The overall feeling that came out of the conference was one of unity and working closely together which is fantastic as the RSA is a large organization that serves all Veterans, serving and non serving military members and our main function is to advocate and support our veterans.

Operation Wrapped in Remembrance has been incredibly successful and we thank all of those knitters who have contributed scarves, beanies and a knee warmer to the cause. You can read more about Operation Wrapped in Remembrance later in the newsletter and see some photos of our amazing men modeling the scarves.

On that note I want to wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Message from the president Bruce Gillespie

Kia Ora Tatou, Welcome to you all.

Another year is almost over, and a busy and productive one for us it has been too. We have seen a number of changes, lots of positive activities, commemorations and sadly we have also had to farewell a number of our members and friends. I take a moment to remember those who have passed away this year but moreover I think of those partners, family members and friends who have had to make the adjustment to living life after losing a loved one. Our thoughts are with you.

The Hamilton RSA is prospering generally, due mainly to a group of hard working committee members, support advisors and volunteers who are all supported by our dedicated administrator Helen Nonoa. We also have a large band of loyal members.

Our team of Support Advisors are doing a fantastic job. Led by Ian Foster we have Lance Langley, Jan Luttrell and Tony Wright who all give so much of their time in assisting our veterans and their families. The product of this team extend way beyond the city boundary of Hamilton and this fact has been acknowledged by many around the nation who have noticed and recognise the effort and success of the Hamilton support team. We have held a number of successful support clinics this year plus hosted a very interesting presentation by Tania Linford who is a Clinical Audiologist and specialises in tinnitus.

Well done team, so proud of the work you do.

Much of this work is coupled with our Poppy Trust who respond generously when and where we need financial assistance and support. We thank our Poppy Trust trustees Murray Deed, Syd Worster, Andrew Fletcher and Ross Bredesen.

I have mentioned at some of our recent activities that this country would not be the place that it is without volunteers, and it is a real buzz to have this publicly acknowledged by folks in the community who are aware and appreciate what the RSA generally, is doing. This was evident when we had our gazebo on site at the recent Motorhome & Caravan Show and then at the Sika Show. The response by event organisers, other exhibitors and the general public was very encouraging. It reinforces my own belief that we are doing good things amongst our veteran community.

Our ANZAC Day and Armistice Day commemorations were well supported, yet again. Whilst we have the Dawn and Civic ANZAC services pretty well sussed, we are quite determined to improve on the post event gathering in the Hamilton Workingmen's Club. Management of the club agree that this has the potential to be one of their big days on the calendar and they have committed to work with us to improve our combined delivery to make it a memorable occasion for all who attend.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support that we receive from the club staff and Manager Nathan, President Helen and Shereen our liaison officer. Thanks also to Ange who we work with to coordinate functions and catering.

Those who attended our AGM this year will be aware of some changes in our administration. Our Financial Year is to be changed from April-March to now be 01 July to 30 June. This creates better spacing for the preparation of accounts as we presently have a very hectic period in March, April and May with Anzac, Poppy Appeal along with processing the new membership year. Your Full Year 2025-26 membership subscriptions will be extended to end of June 2026.

In line with this motion, the AGM also approved the resetting of future Annual General Meetings to be held in September each year. These changes will be incorporated into the new constitution and HRSA Rules.

Continued

I can also advise that our new Hamilton RSA constitution has been reviewed and has been approved by RNZRSA. The new constitution has been registered with the Incorporated Society Register. We will then move on to producing an updated copy of our HRSA Rules, which is a much abbreviated and less detailed version of the constitution and contains more of the daily relevancies for the administration of the Hamilton RSA. This will be completed in the new year. Every financial member will be offered a copy of the completed Rules of the Hamilton RSA and a copy of the constitution if requested. It will also be posted on our web site.

In September we were honoured to award Murray Deed with Life Membership of the Hamilton RSA. At the RSA District Meeting held in the Conservatory of the HWMC, our new RNZRSA National President Tony Hill, presented Murray with his award. It was a privilege to have Murray's wife Jill join us for the occasion.



On behalf of committee and members, I would like to thank Syd Worster for his production of the beautiful mahogany timber base for our Flame of Remembrance which is now positioned on the corner of the main bar in the HWMC. Our thanks also to Tony Bennett for doing the electrical connection. Thank you gentlemen, we appreciate your work. We presently recite the Ode on Wednesday evening at 1800hrs in the club main bar. Syd has also installed a drop box on the wall to the right of the RSA main office door. This box slot can be used for couriers and also for members to place membership payments or mail for action by Helen.

I would like to mention our Hamilton Cadet Forces and note the increasing numbers of cadets joining our three units, Army and Training Ship Waikato based in Hamilton and No 7 ATC Squadron at Te Kowhai Airfield. It is my wish to advance the relationship between Hamilton RSA and the Cadet Forces. We have a relationship that is a common link, especially at the times of commemoration. Hamilton City Cadet Unit Commander Captain Dave Evans was recently awarded a Civic Award for his work involving Cadet Forces and his community involvement. Congratulations Dave, well done and well deserved.

As we close in on the Festive Season, I would like to wish you and your families a very safe and happy Christmas. Take care of yourselves and each other over this time and let us all be grateful and be appreciative of what we have and the loved ones that we have around us.

We are desperately in need for more volunteers to help with the annual poppy day appeal next year and if you have the time, in the new year, we are looking for volunteers to visit our older Veterans either in their homes or retirement villages. If this sounds like you please contact Helen in the office.

Thank you all for your support over this last year.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

Bruce Gillespie

President Hamilton RSA

Our team had 2 special guests at the Sika show this year, from left to right: Chris Campbell (Ham RSA ex-ec committee) Neville Johnson (Ham RSA exec committee) The Right Honourable Christopher Luxon (Prime Minister of New Zealand) Tony Hill (National President of the RNZRSA) and Bruce Gillespie (President Hamilton RSA)



Hamilton Cadet Unit Achievements and Year-End Update

Outstanding Achievements in Competitions

This year, the Hamilton City Cadet Unit demonstrated exceptional skill and determination by winning the Northern Area Skills Competition. Building on this success, the unit advanced to the regional competition, where they secured another impressive victory. Earlier in July, the Hamilton City Cadet Unit travelled to Australia to compete against the Australian Cadets. They emerged victorious in this international contest, earning the coveted trophy, although they were unable to bring it back to New Zealand. See Captain Dave Evans NZCF report later in the news letter

Additionally, 7 Squadron participated in a skills competition and achieved a commendable second place in the Northern Area, showcasing their dedication and hard work.

Progress and Aspirations of TS Waikato

TS Waikato continues to make significant progress, going from strength to strength. The unit is optimistic about the coming year and hopes to compete in the regatta, aiming to further demonstrate their growing capabilities.

End of Year Activities and Reflections

As the year draws to a close, all units are beginning to wind down with their end-of-year parades. Throughout the year, there have been numerous fundraising events and camps, contributing to the vibrancy and success of the cadet community. With these activities coming to an end, everyone looks forward to a well-deserved break and the opportunity to relax over the Christmas holidays.

**Thank you to the Hamilton cadet forces who
attended the Armistice day commemorations**



Australian Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge 2025

This July, cadets from across Australia and our very own Army Cadet team from New Zealand converged on Kokoda Barracks, Canungra, Queensland for the Australian Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge 2025 (CACTC25). Representing every Australian Army Cadets (AAC) region, alongside the Australian Navy Cadets, and Australian Air Force Cadets, and New Zealand Cadet Forces (NZCF), the event brought together the very best young leaders.

The challenge tested cadets in leadership, resilience, and teamwork through a series of demanding physical and mental tasks. From grueling field activities and long days in the bush, to the punishing obstacle and water courses at Kokoda Barracks, cadets demonstrated discipline, determination, and teamwork under pressure.

After several days of competition which included ten field challenges, two nights under the stars, and the final water-based obstacle course, the NZCF cadets emerged triumphant, claiming first place in the competition. The Australian Air Force Cadets secured second, and Headquarters AAC Tasmania finished third.



The Commander of the Australian Army Cadets, Brigadier David McCammon, presented the winning trophy on behalf of the Chief of Army, and also awarded the cadets a Gold Commendation, the highest achievement within the program. The result was a source of immense pride for the New Zealand contingent. Following the challenge, the New Zealand cadets continued their adventure with the visiting UK contingent. Their journey began in Canberra with a tour of the Australian Parliament House followed by time at Questacon which is The National Science and Technology Centre, and a moving visit to the Australian War Memorial, where cadets had the honor of laying a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony.

The second week took them across New South Wales, from the Australian Air Force Heritage Centre and Kapooka Army Recruit Training Depot, to Cowra's Japanese War Cemetery and a lap of Mount Panorama at Bathurst. Cadets also enjoyed lighter moments which included shopping at the famous Lolly Bug lolly shop to taking in breathtaking views at Scenic World, Blue Mountains.

The trip ended in Sydney, with cadets walking across the Harbor Bridge, visiting Manly by ferry, and taking in the sights from the Sydney Tower Eye. Along the way, bonds deepened between New Zealand, Australian, and UK cadets, strengthening international friendships and reinforcing the shared values of service and leadership.

"Our cadets did themselves proud, as well as NZCF and their units. There wasn't a single negative word said about them during the competition. They represented New Zealand with determination, humility, and teamwork, and the friendships built along the way will last a lifetime."

For the cadets, this was more than just a competition it was a test of character, a celebration of international camaraderie, and an unforgettable opportunity to grow as leaders.

Report from: Captain Dave Evans, NZCF Cadet Unit Commander Hamilton City Cadet Unit





Would you like to knit, weave or crochet for a veteran?

In acknowledgment of 2025 being 80 years since the end of World War 2, 75 years since beginning of Korean War, 65 years since end of Malay Emergency and 50 years since end of Vietnam War, we invite you to knit, weave or crochet a scarf for a veteran. To let them know they haven't been forgotten, they are wrapped in remembrance and their service is appreciated.

Scarves can be any ply, any pattern and any colour.

Project on now finishing November 11, 2025

Completed scarves can be dropped off to
Morrinsville District Memorial RSA - 27 Studholme St, Morrinsville

And questions contact Project Manager
Dellwyn - dellwyn.moylan@gmail.com

Check out our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/share/14qFGgvi4B/>
Operation Wrapped in Remembrance

Completed scarves can also be dropped off at the Hamilton RSA 47 Commerce St Frankton

Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 1000-1500



Some of our fabulous
'models' showing off the
scarfs and blankets that
have been knitted



THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY
IN CONCERT

ON PARADE

AT WAIKATO ARTILLERY MUSEUM



Don't miss the Band's first visit to it's companion Museum -
playing a wide selection of music for all ages.

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 3.00PM
502 TAUHEI ROAD, MANGATEPARU,
NR MORRINSVILLE

All Tickets \$25

BOOK ONLINE AT - www.eventfinda.co.nz
or by phone Tel: 0800 289 849
No booking fee



Registered Charities Nos: CC30292 & CC62040
Book early to avoid disappointment.



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Glenice & John Gallagher Foundation Trust



Making medical check-ups easier for Vietnam veterans' annual medical assessments

Vietnam veterans and their GPs now have an online form to help them with their annual medical check-ups.

Vietnam veterans are entitled to a free annual medical check-up (AMA) with their GP. This entitlement is one of the provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding the Crown signed with Vietnam veterans in 2006, to recognise that they had served in a toxic environment and could have been exposed to chemicals such as Agent Orange.

In the past, Veterans' Affairs would send an AMA form to eligible veterans each year for them to take to their appointment, then the veteran would be required to send it back to us.

An online version of the AMA form is now available on the GP's patient management platform. GPs can complete the form online during the appointment, and no hard copy has to be provided by the veteran or returned to Veterans' Affairs. The GP can do it all online.

GPs can also attach other relevant material, like X-rays, with the assessment.

From now on, the only veterans who still need to use a hard copy for their AMAs are those who live overseas, whose GPs won't be able to access the online system.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

if you have served in any of the NZ Armed Forces and are needing help, please phone Helen on 07 8394928 or email: rsahamilton@xtra.co.nz and she will put you in contact with one of our Support Advisors

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Our office will close at 1500 hrs. on Friday 19 December 2025

Will open again at 1000 hrs. on Thursday 22 January 2026

For urgent need contact Bruce Ph. 0211123464

Or Lance Ph. 021763704



Introduction to Qualifying Service

A question that is often asked of a Local Support advisor is: do I qualify for help?

FYI. Here is what can be found on the Veterans affairs Web site.

Qualifying Operational Service is a term used to describe service that has been carried out in areas that have been assessed as having environmental or operational risks to Defence Force personnel that is significantly greater than those of peacetime activities

There are two types of Qualifying Service:

- Qualifying Routine Service
- Qualifying Operational Service.

You don't need both types of Qualifying Service to get support. Either type will give you eligibility.

The support you can get depends on your unique service, including:

- where you served
- when you served.

You will also need to meet the individual requirements for each service or entitlement.

Qualifying Operational Service

You will have Qualifying Operational Service if you have deployed to an area that has been declared as Qualifying Operational Service.

How Qualifying Operational Service is determined

An operation is determined "eligible" based on its assessed threat level.

1. After the decision to deploy has been made, the Chief of Defence Force must give a report to the Minister for Veterans as soon as possible. This report assesses the operational and environmental threats to deployed personnel. Deployments that have already ended can also be reviewed.
2. The Minister for Veterans decides if there is a significant risk of harm to deployed personnel.
3. The Minister for Veterans declares the operation as Qualifying Operational Service if it meets the threat threshold. This declaration is published on the Veterans' Affairs website.

If you don't have Qualifying Operational Service — and didn't serve before 1 April 1974 — you are likely not eligible for support from Veterans Affairs.

There is a chance that you have deployed on an operation that has yet to be declared as Qualifying Operational Service. Check the Veterans Affairs web site.

If you served before 1 April 1974 — regardless of where — you will have Qualifying Routine Service.

Qualifying Routine Service

You will have Qualifying Routine Service if you served in the NZ Armed Forces before 1 April 1974 — either in New Zealand or overseas.

Qualifying Routine Service recognizes that before 1 April 1974, service members were not covered for work-related injuries or illnesses. Because of this, we provide support to all those that served in the NZ Armed Forces during this time.

Qualifying Routine Service stopped on 1 April 1974 with the introduction of ACC. Since that date, ACC provides support for all New Zealanders who suffer work-related injuries or illnesses. This coverage extends to members of the NZ Defence Force or NZ Armed Forces.